

Extra Reading

Reading about an Unusual Sport

A Look at these words from the text. Read the sentences that contain the words and identify the part of speech in order to guess the meaning of the word. Write the meanings in your own language.

- unlikely (line 1) *adjective - improbable* 3. foolishness (line 21) *noun - estupidez, tontería*
- joined (line 15) *verb - se unieron a, se juntaron con*

Extreme Ironing

Can an ordinary activity like ironing be considered an extreme sport? It sounds unlikely but when an Englishman, Phil Shaw, created a new sport called Extreme Ironing, the idea quickly caught on.

Ordinary ironing becomes an extreme sport when the places where people do it are dangerous. Devotees of Extreme Ironing are constantly searching for bizarre spots, such as mountain tops or in the middle of busy streets. Extreme ironers are sometimes too enthusiastic and some participants have been injured while they were ironing. One ironer had to have medical treatment after unsuccessfully trying to iron on a surfboard inside a car.

Interest in Extreme Ironing has spread far beyond Britain. In the first world championship, which took place in 2002, participants came from countries as far away as Chile. In the same year, a Swiss man set a record by ironing 4,100 metres up in the Alps.

One of the most ambitious ironing attempts was made by two British men, John Roberts and Ben Gibbons, who set out to break the Swiss man's record. They walked 300 kilometres in 17 days to the foot of Mount Everest, where they joined 35 groups of mountaineers waiting their turn to climb the treacherous mountain. Roberts and Gibbons ironed their national flag, the Union Jack, on a mountain slope 5,440 metres above sea level.

Who knows what other places devotees of Extreme Ironing will find to do their ironing? One thing is for certain: ironing will continue to be done in places most of us would never dream of. Whether we admire their daring feats or criticise their foolishness is a matter of opinion.



B Read the text and complete the sentences according to the information in the text.

- Ironing is considered an extreme sport when *the places where people do it are dangerous*.
- Some people think extreme ironers are brave, but others think *they are foolish*.

C Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)? Find evidence in the text to support your answers.

- It didn't take long for Extreme Ironing to become popular. *The idea quickly caught on*.
- World championships are held in Chile. *Participants come from countries as far away as Chile*.
- Ben Gibbons and John Roberts broke an existing record. *A Swiss man set a record by ironing 4,100 metres up in the Alps and Roberts and Gibbons ironed their national flag, 5,440 metres above sea level*.

D Find words in the text that mean:

- places (line 5) *spots*
- dangerous (line 16) *treacherous*
- actions (line 20) *feats*

Extra Listening

Watching Sport

You are going to hear a conversation about computer technology and sport. Listen and answer the questions.

- Dave saw a programme about
☐ a. new kinds of computers
☐ b. sports stars
☒ c. technology and sports games
- Sandra believes that
☐ a. live games aren't exciting
☒ b. people will always like live games best
☐ c. fewer people will go to live games in the future
- In the future, sports fans will be able to
☒ a. see any part of the stadium that they choose on their TV screen
☐ b. send comments to the players and the coach while they're watching
☐ c. change their point of view about a player
- In the future, to get a player's statistics, you will
☐ a. call in during a break in play
☒ b. click on a place on the TV screen
☐ c. check your computer
- Which of the following is NOT possible?
☐ a. Watching part of the game again.
☐ b. Ordering tickets to live games.
☒ c. Ordering something to eat without getting up.
- Sandra is worried that the new technology
☒ a. will cost a lot
☐ b. won't be perfect
☐ c. won't be really cool
- Dave mentions a sports video game in which you can
☐ a. play games from the past
☒ b. choose players from the past and the present
☐ c. play against star players
- Dave thinks that sports video games
☒ a. are usually very challenging
☐ b. are very different from a live game
☐ c. will be very expensive
- Sandra invites Dave to
☐ a. play football with a group of friends
☒ b. go to a football match
☐ c. watch a football match on TV with a group of friends
- Dave admits that technology doesn't give you
☐ a. the chance to meet the players
☐ b. a chance to really exercise
☒ c. a good time with friends

